

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11124

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE
CHILD, ITEM 24

REF: GENEVA 10528

1. SUBJECT ITEM DISCUSSION BEGAN JULY 12 IN THIRD
COMMITTEE, AND CONCLUDED MORNING OF JULY 17. IN GENERAL,
IT WAS HARMONIOUS AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL.
2. DR. ALDABA-LIM MADE OPENING STATEMENT WHICH WAS NOT
DIFFERENT FROM ONE SHE MADE AT LAST UNICEF BOARD MEETING.
ALL DELEGATIONS PLUS OBSERVER MEMBERS MADE STATEMENTS
DESCRIBING OWN NATIONAL IYC PROGRAMS.
3. SOME OBSERVATIONS WORTH NOTING INCLUDE:
 - A) CRITICISM OF INCREASED IYC SECRETARIAT BUDGET FROM
\$4.2 MILLION TO \$5.2 MILLION CAME FROM SWEDEN, ITALY,
NEW ZEALAND, AND FEDERAL REBLUBLIC OF GERMANY.
 - B) AUSTRIA, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, AND USSR PRESSED FOR
APPROVAL OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(E/RES/1978/18).
 - C) ROMANIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT EMPHASIS IN HIS
COUNTRY WAS ON EDUCATION OF CHILDREN PARTICULARLY WITH
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- RESPECT TO PROMOTING THE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE IDEAL
OF EQUALITY AMONG NATIONS.
- D) IRAQ AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REFERRED TO PARTICULAR
PROBLEMS OF DISCRIMINATION -- RACIAL, CHILDREN OR MIGRANT
WORKERS, AND DISPLACED GROUPS SUCH AS PALESTINIANS.
 - E) IRAQ NOTED THAT CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN THE

COMMERCIALIZATION OF IYC EMBLEMS LEST THE IYC SECRETARIAT BUDGET BE FRITTERED AWAY.

- F) IRAN INDICATED THAT IT HAD DIVERTED \$7 MILLION FROM ITS MILITARY BUDGET TO IYC FOR ITS NATIONAL PROGRAMS OVER THE AMOUNT ALREADY BUDGETED. IRAN ALSO CONTRIBUTED \$200,000 FOR THE IYC SECRETARIAT.

- G) HUNGARY ANNOUNCED IT WAS ORGANIZING A FORUM ON IYC TOPICS TO WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE INVITED. GREECE CONDUCTED A SYMPOSIUM AT WHICH 600 EXPERTS, WORLD OVER, PARTICIPATED.

- H) USSR CRITICIZED THE DEVELOPED CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES WHICH, DESPITE SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION, EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND ENGAGED IN "CHILD LABOR".

4. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING NGOS, ALSO MADE STATEMENTS.

5. THE SESSION CLOSED WITH REMARKS BY DR. LIM AND MS. SIPILIA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WHO REFERRED TO PAST AND FUTURE CONFERENCES -- SUCH AS THOSE ON POPULATION, FOOD, WATER, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ETC. -- AND NOTED THAT ALL HAD IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS VIS-A-VIS CHILDRENS.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION REFERRED TO REFTEL IS STILL IN PROCESS OF BEING AMENDED. WILL ADVISE.

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7. U.S. STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: "THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS INDEED PLEASED AT THE SUCCESS OF THE IYC SECRETARIAT IN ITS ABILITY TO REACH OUT TO SO MANY NATIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEANINGFUL WAY TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, MUCH CREDIT MUST GO TO DR. ALDABA-LIM FOR THE ENERGETIC ROLE SHE PLAYED IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

WE SHOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE, ALSO, THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ORGANIZING AND STIMULATING NGO INITIATIVES AND EFFORTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

AS FOR THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO REPORT THAT A NATIONAL COMMISSION HAS BEEN FOUNDED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MS. JEAN YOUNG. IYC HAS THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER, IN INAUGURATING THE COMMISSION, STATED, AND I QUOTE: 'I WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THIS GROUP AND HOPE TO ADD THE PRESTIGE AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF TO MAKING THIS A SUCCESSFUL

EFFORT.'

THE PRESIDENT ALSO STATED: 'WE WILL BE EAGER TO HELP OTHERS, CHILDREN IN NATIONS NOT QUITE SO BLESSED WITH THE MATERIAL BENEFITS OF LIFE. THIS EFFORT WILL ENCOMPASS ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE. WORKING THROUGH UNICEF AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS' AGENCIES, THROUGH THE LEADERS OF OTHER NATIONS, I THINK WE CAN ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER CLOTHING, HOUSING, FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND THE PROTECTION AGAINST SUFFERING

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ON THE PART OF CHILDREN IN ALL NATIONS. SO I AM VERY EAGER TO BE A PART OF IT.'

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE SHOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE NATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THE BUDGET FOR THE IYC SECRETARIAT SO THAT IT MAY FULFILL ITS TASK OF COORDINATING THE IYC EFFORT THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTRIBUTED \$250.000 THUS FAR AND THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE ANOTHER \$1 MILLION." END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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